

Manitoba PC Caucus Review

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Manitobans

PST Reduced Promise Made. Promise Kept.

Budget 2019 gets the job done for Manitobans by focusing on investments that fix the finances, repair services and rebuild the economy, Finance Minister Scott Fielding announced this week as he introduced the budget in the legislature.

“Three years ago, Manitobans chose a new direction for their province and elected us to bring greater stability, security and opportunity to people right across the province,” said Fielding. “Budget 2019 reduces the retail sales tax, continues to reduce the summary deficit, invests in addictions services and focuses on the needs of Manitoba families.”

Budget 2019 cuts the retail sales tax to seven per cent from eight per cent on July 1, six years from the day the previous government broke its promise, and achieving the government’s commitment to reduce the PST during its first term.

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“While others are taking more money off kitchen tables all over the province – with higher municipal property taxes, higher Hydro rates and higher federal deficits – our government is lowering the PST, leaving that money where it belongs,” said Fielding. “By the end of our second term, this rate reduction will save an average family of four around \$3,000.

“It will increase economic output and generate approximately 900 person-years of employment. Labour income, including wages and salaries, will grow by nearly \$50 million per year, and Manitoba’s nominal GDP will increase by approximately \$90 million,” said the minister.

“We’ve increased funding for health care, for education and for families to record levels in each of our budgets, to the highest levels in Manitoba history,” said Fielding. “And yet, we’ve still been able to reduce our deficit and stay on track to deliver a balanced budget in the next six years. This accomplishment shows our plan is working.”

To learn more about how Budget 2019 is getting the job done for Manitobans, visit:

www.manitoba.ca/budget2019/.

PREMIER ANNOUNCES PST EXEMPTION FOR FEDERAL CARBON TAX

The province is taking action to shield Manitobans from an increase in the cost to their home-heating bills. It will not apply the provincial sales tax (PST) to the federal government's carbon tax, Premier Brian Pallister announced this week.

The federal government has made clear its intention to charge the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on top of the carbon tax, which would in effect tax Manitobans twice. When combined with the impact of the federal carbon tax on home heating, this decision will cost the average Manitoba household \$92 more in 2019, topping out at approximately \$230 by the year 2022.

"Ottawa is charging federal sales tax on top of its carbon tax, meaning Manitobans will be hit twice on their natural gas bills," said Pallister. "The added cost of charging GST on top of the federal carbon tax means Manitobans will have less disposable income at the end of the month. Affordability matters and we are ensuring Manitobans will not be triple charged."

Manitoba will implement an exemption to ensure the PST will not apply on the federal carbon tax, saving Manitoba families and businesses \$3.6 million in 2019.

MANITOBA MAKES MAJOR INVESTMENT IN BRANDON'S KEYSTONE CENTRE



The Manitoba government is providing funding to the Keystone Centre to ensure it can continue to serve as Westman's leading event destination, Premier Brian Pallister announced in Brandon this week. In addition to local leaders and Municipal Relations Minister Jeff Wharton, the Premier was also joined by Westman MLAs Hon. Cliff Cullen (Spruce Woods), Reg Helwer (Brandon West), and Len Isleifson (Brandon East).

"We made this commitment for the Keystone Centre to remain a valuable multi-use facility that brings quality of life to Westman and economic activity in the region for years to come," said Pallister. "Our investment will place the centre on a solid footing to develop a sustainability plan that addresses its long-term needs, while maintaining the services we all enjoy at this important public facility."

The Premier confirmed the \$2.9-million investment will retire all of the Keystone Centre's current debt including its outstanding mortgage. As a result, the centre will realize savings of more than \$300,000 annually, allowing more funds to be redirected toward capital infrastructure projects, he said.